

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 15 and 16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added by this amendment as support for the amendment can be found at least in paragraphs [0063] and [0084]. The specification is amended to correct typographical errors. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,528,358 to Yamazaki et al. (hereinafter "Yamazaki"). Additionally, the Office Action, in paragraph 4, rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,653,657 to Kawasaki et al. (hereinafter "Kawasaki"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action asserts that Yamazaki teaches many of the features as recited in the subject matter of the pending claims. However, Yamazaki does not disclose a light-shielding layer disposed between the substrate and the monocrystalline semiconductor layer at a position corresponding to the monocrystalline semiconductor layer, the light-shielding layer being formed from a conductive material selected from the group consisting of a simple metal substrate, an alloy, and a metal silicide including at least one of Ti, Cr, W, Ta, Mo, and Pb; and an interlayer insulating film that electrically insulates the monocrystalline semiconductor layer from the light-shielding layer, as is positively recited in claim 1.

Rather, Yamazaki discloses an underlying film disposed on a glass substrate and having a function of suppressing the diffusion of impurities from the glass substrate in the manufacturing process (col. 35, lines 15-30). Yamazaki, in discussing numerous embodiments, makes repeated reference to the underlying layer being a silicon oxide film or a silicon oxynitride film, of which both are non-conductive films. Yamazaki is silent regarding

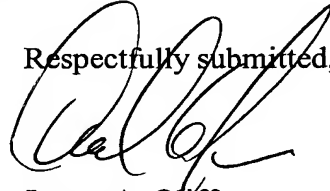
a light-shielding layer disposed between the substrate and the monocrystalline semiconductor layer at a position corresponding to the monocrystalline semiconductor layer, the light-shielding layer being formed from a conductive material, and an interlayer insulating film that electrically insulates the monocrystalline semiconductor layer from the light-shielding layer. Therefore, Yamazaki cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, all of the features recited in the subject matter of the pending claims. Kawasaki does not overcome the above stated deficiencies of Yamazaki.

For at least these reasons, Yamazaki, in any permissible combination with Kawasaki, cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of all of the features recited in at least independent claim 1. Further, claims 2-4, 8-11, 15 and 16 also would not have been suggested by any permissible combination of Yamazaki and Kawasaki, for at least the respective dependence, either directly or indirectly, of these claims on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 8-11, 15 and 16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

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